

I am writing in support of your Radiology Assistant (RA) training program at Quinnipiac University, and of the legislation that would establish licensure for RA's in Connecticut. Well-trained RA's serve an important function in the provision of Radiology services to patients in many other states, and here in CT, and this legislation would recognize the importance of their contribution and establish necessary guidelines for RA practice.

I am a practicing radiologist in CT for approximately 12 years, and serve as the Vice Chairman of Radiology at Danbury Hospital. In my opinion, your program is a model of high-quality education and training for these individuals.

Healthcare in the United States faces many challenges, as you know, including: (1) escalating costs; (2) personnel shortage, specifically of Radiologists; (3) reduction in time available for patients to meet personally with their healthcare providers; (4) lack of access for many patients, and so forth. Furthermore, the current global recession will likely exacerbate these problems greatly.

RA's can provide a critical resource in today's healthcare environment. They are able to perform a range of procedures under the direct supervision of a radiologist that increases throughput and decreases wait times, particularly for hospital-based radiology services. PA's are trained in the physics of radiation, clinical aspects of radiology, and with hands-on training of a wide range of procedures. They can provide valuable information to patients undergoing radiology services, by providing additional support to interventional radiologists.

For many patients, a trip to the Radiology department is frightening, due to the concerns that a serious illness will be diagnosed, or because of anxieties about an invasive procedure that they are about to undergo. RA's provide much to patients in these regards.

Physician extenders have become standard in many fields, including PA's working in the physician's office, emergency department, and throughout hospitals. Surgical PA's work with orthopedists and other surgeons routinely. These individuals have generally improved access to care while keeping the cost of providing additional services down. **I fully support the legislation that would extend the PA model to the Radiology environment and permit licensure of RA's in Connecticut.**

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